

NORTH SLOPE SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES **SECTION**

Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) provide priorities and response strategies for the protection of selected sensitive areas in order to assist first responders to an oil spill. The GRS list the sensitive resources of a particular area and the response tactics, equipment, personnel, and logistical information necessary to protect these sensitive resources. The North Slope Subarea does not presently have any official Geographic Response Strategies, as produced for other subareas in the state.

Alaska Clean Seas (ACS), the spill response cooperative for the North Slope oil production industry, developed a three-volume *Technical Manual* to guide their responders in the event of an oil spill. The ACS *Technical Manual* describes itself as providing “a detailed source of information pertaining to spill response variables on the North Slope of Alaska. This information includes:

- ◆ Spill response tactics in a variety of conditions and seasonal variations.
- ◆ Maps of resources at risk from a spill.
- ◆ Information on the Incident Management System used in a spill event.”

The ACS *Technical Manual* mimics GRS in many aspects and serves essentially the same function. For that reason, the North Slope Subarea Committee has chosen to use the ACS *Technical Manual* in lieu of developing GRS at this time. An agreement between ACS and the State of Alaska allows the use of and public references to the ACS document.

The ACS *Technical Manual* is available at <http://www.alaskacleanseas.org/tech-manual/>. The online manual is divided into three Adobe PDF format files. The online manual is the most recent revision, dated April 2006.

The ACS *Technical Manual* consists of three volumes:

- Volume 1, Tactics Description
- Volume 2, Map Atlas
- Volume 3, North Slope Incident Management System

The first two volumes offer State and federal responders the information that will prove most vital during an oil spill response.

Description of ACS *Technical Manual*:

Volume 1, Tactics Descriptions: This volume of the ACS *Technical Manual* contains descriptions of tactics used to respond to oil spills. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all possible tactics, but describes the basic tactics which ACS is prepared to use in response to a spill.

Volume 2: Map Atlas: The Map Atlas includes 176 maps covering the developed areas of the North Slope oil fields. Each map has a corresponding legend page; the two pages provide detailed geographic, biological, civil information on the area covered by the map. On the legend page, written data is included on priority protection sites, general sensitivity data, cultural sites, air and vessel access, hydrogeographic conditions, countermeasures considerations, staging areas and prestaged equipment.

Volume 3, North Slope Incident Management System: This volume provides a unified organization for ACS member companies to respond to spills and other incidents. The organization consists of three levels: Tactical Response Teams, Incident Management Teams, and Crisis Management Teams. This section describes the organization of these teams. In addition, a full complement of ICS forms and job checklists for ICS positions is included.